

BILLINGTON, RAY WALLACE (1880-1962)
PAPERS,
1916-1964
[1941-1950]

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INTRODUCTION

The Ray Wallace Billington Papers, 1916-1964, are centered around Ray Wallace Billington (1880-1962) a World War I Veteran and noted orthopedic surgeon of Nashville, Tennessee. The Ray Wallace Billington Papers are a gift of Mrs. Mary Billington of Nashville, Tennessee. The papers occupy 5.04 linear feet of shelf space.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Ray Wallace Billington Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ray Wallace Billington Papers span the period 1916-1964, although the bulk of the material is largely concentrated in the years 1941-1950. The collection is composed of cards, clippings, correspondence, diaries, medical certificates from the Scottish General Hospital, photographs, programs, scrapbooks, yearbooks, and several miscellaneous items.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence dating from 1918 through 1964. There are two main parts to the correspondence: one deals with R. W. Billington's letters written during World War I, and the second group of letters concern his son's experience during World War II. Both sets provide an interesting view of war-ravaged Europe. Other letters outline Billington's interest in the Nashville Crippled Children's Home. There are two letters in the collection from Franklin D. Roosevelt discussing their mutual interest in the Warm Springs Foundation for polio victims. A name index of the correspondence has been compiled and appears at the end of this finding aid.

The diaries chronicle the career of the prominent physician detailing cases and operations performed and the daily life of an observer of the world. Also, the Vanderbilt University Yearbooks give important information on students, faculty, and social activities.

The collection is important because it provides a glimpse into the life of a prominent orthopedic surgeon and the experiences of Americans serving in the European theatre during two world wars.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ray Wallace Billington

- 1880 December 7, born in Maury County, Tennessee, son of William K. and Martha Sue Elliott Billington.
- 1889 Moves from Maury County to Williamson County, two miles south of Franklin
- 1890-1898 Educated in the public and private schools in Franklin; was graduated from Battle Grand Academy
- 1889-1901 Graduated from Vanderbilt University
- 1906 Graduated from the Vanderbilt University Medical School
- 1906-1910 Opened general practice in Nashville and assistant in Anatomy and Material Medical Department of Vanderbilt Medical School
- 1911 Went to New York and did post graduate work at the "Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled"
- 1911-1950 Begins teaching orthopedic surgery at Vanderbilt University
- 1912 Performs the first bone graft operation in the South; helps found Junior League Home for Crippled Children
- 1913 Performs the first fusion operation on the spine; married Mary Wood Prichard of Nashville
- 1917 Volunteers to enter service in the U. S. Army Medical Corps and went overseas as one of a group of twenty orthopedic surgeons who were loaned by the U. S. Government to the British for special reconstruction work in their special hospitals. Served under Sir Robert Jones.
- 1919 Returns to Nashville and resumes practice
- 1921 Gives thesis for membership in the American Orthopedic Society on "Paralysis of Muscular Spinal Nerve"
- 1922 At the Tennessee Medical Association reads a paper entitled "Low Back Pain"
- 1931 Dr. Billington reads before the Southern Medical Association his paper on "A New Plastic Yoke Dressing for Fractures of the Clavicle"
- 1937-1941 Member of the Tennessee State Crippled Children's Committee
- 1949 Organization chairman and President of Tennessee State orthopedic Society
- 1950 Retires from medical practice
- 1962 April 5, died in Franklin, Tennessee and interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box 1

1. Accounts—Bills and receipts
2. Card—Bill, W. W.
3. Cards—Miscellaneous
4. Cards—Miscellaneous
5. Cards—Miscellaneous
6. Certificates—Miscellaneous
7. Clippings—Ray Wallace Billington
8. Clippings—Ray Wallace Billington
9. Clippings—World War I
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11. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1917
12. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1918
13. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, n.d.
14. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, n.d.
15. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1941-1942
16. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1941-1942
17. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1941-1942
18. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
19. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
20. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
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22. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
23. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
24. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
25. Correspondence—Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944

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1. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
2. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
3. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
4. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
5. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
6. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
7. Billington, Ray Wallace, 1945
8. Billington, Ray Wallace, n.d.
9. Billington, Ray Wallace, n.d.
10. Billington, Ray Wallace, n.d.

11. Brandon—Cummings
12. Daniell—Duncan, Elsie
13. Duncan, Elsie
14. Duncan, Elsie

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1. Duncan, Elsie
2. Foote—Fraser
3. Gambill—Howse
4. Jones—Kirkpatrick
5. Lentz—Lorenz
6. McAlister Mullooney
7. Officers Prichard
8. Ray Rucks
9. Sims Travis
10. Wain Zerfoss
11. Unknown

Box 4

Diaries—Billington, Ray Wallace

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2. 1934-1944
3. 1945-1946
4. 1947-1948

Box 5

Diaries—Billington, Ray Wallace

1. 1950-1956

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2. 1957-1960
3. 1961-1964

Box 6

Diaries—Billington, Ray Wallace

1. 1965-1969

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1. Lists—School of Medicine, 1906
2. Medical certificates-Scottish General Hospital
3. Medical certificates-Scottish General Hospital
4. Medical certificates-Scottish General Hospital
5. Medical certificates-Scottish General Hospital
6. Military records-Billington, Ray Wallace
7. Military records-Billington, Ray Wallace
8. Notebooks-Billington, Ray Wallace
9. Photographs, drawings, etc.—Miscellaneous
10. Printed material—Miscellaneous
11. Programs—Miscellaneous
12. Programs—Miscellaneous
11. Programs—Orthopedic Society
12. Programs—Orthopedic Society

Box 8

1. Register—Billington, Ray Wallace-Funeral
2. Resume—Billington, Ray Wallace
3. Scrapbook—Billington, Ray Wallace
4. Scrapbook—Billington, Ray Wallace

Box 9

1. Scrapbook—Billington, Ray Wallace
2. Sketches—Billington, Ray Wallace
3. Sketches—"Warm Springs, Georgia"
4. Speech—"A Long Look Back"
5. Vanderbilt University Yearbook, 1900

Box 10

Vanderbilt University Yearbook

1. 1901
2. 1904
3. 1905
4. 1906

Microfilm Reel #3

Box 11

Ward Seminary Yearbook

1. 1905
2. 1906
3. 1907
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1. Writings—Billington, Ray Wallace
2. Writings—Billington, Ray Wallace

Box 13

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1. Appointment-Member of the Crippled Children's Service Commission, 1941
2. Certification-American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, 1934
3. Diploma—American Orthopedic Association, 1926
4. Diploma—Alpha Omega Alpha-Vanderbilt University, 1923
5. Diplomas—Vanderbilt University-Medical Degree
6. Military Records-Appointment as 1st Lieutenant in Medical Section, 1917
7. Military Records-Appointment as Captain in Medical Section, 1918
8. Photograph, composite—Nashville Academy of Medicine and Davidson County Medical Society, 1937-1938

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- Atkinson, Richard M. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1937, re: views on Supreme Court "picking", 1-10
- Bailey, William S. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1944, re: sends check to clear his account; thank you for the kind attention, 1-10
- Bass, J. L. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1952, re: regrets to know of your retirement, 1-10
- Billington, Ray Wallace (46) to Parents, 1917 and undated, re: assignment physician to the British Medical Corp during World War I; voyage to England; life in World War I England; work at the British Military Orthopedic Hospital; career of Sir Robert Jones discusses work in Aberdeen, Scotland; transfer to Newcastle-on-Tyne, England; work at First Northern General Hospital; visits in northern England and Scotland, 1-11; 1-12; 1-13; 1-14
- Billington, William Wallace (186) to Ray Wallace Billington, 1941-1945, re: life as an aviation cadet in Santa Ana Army Base; transfer to Chico Army Base in Chico, California; life in U. S. Army in World War II; special flying missions; personal news; life in Europe during World War II, 1-13 through 2-10
- Branden, Louise to Ray Wallace Billington, 1938, re: sends sympathy in the loss of your mother, 2-11
- Bridgeforth, Edwin B. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1942, re: would like to get addresses for all ex-service men for a fraternity, 2-11
- Brown, L. F. to Mrs. Ray Wallace Billington, 1965, re: sends a portrait plate and biography of Ray Wallace Billington for inclusion in a historical publication, 2-11
- Bumer, Virginia to Mrs. Billington, n.d., re: condolences on the death of Dr. Billington, 2-11
- Byrns, Joseph W. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1939, re: in reference to Wagner's National Health Bill, S-1620, 2-11
- Carpenter, George K. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1937, re: would like information on orthopedic surgery in Nashville, 2-11
- Cathey, Ludella to Ray Wallace Billington, 1936, re: personal and family news; would like information for a biography, 2-11
- Chayes, Edward to Ray Wallace Billington, 1943, re: sends effects of Lieutenant P. A. Billington, 2-11
- Cleveland Orthopedic Society to Ray Wallace Billington, 1941, re: invites Billington to attend the Clinical Orthopedic Society, 2-11

Conwell, H. Earle to Ray Wallace Billington, 1939, re: requests a photograph of the plaster yoke for fractures of the clavicle, 2-11

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Courtney, Wirt to Ray Wallace Billington, 1943, re: personal news, 2-11

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Denning, A. O. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1943, re: sends payment on account, 2-12

Duncan, Elsie (99) to Ray Wallace Billington, 1928-1960, re: life in Roxburghshire, England; life after World War I; life during World War II in England; post-war recovery; family and personal news, 2-12; 2-13; 2-14; 3-1

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Fossett, Fred J. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1920, re: discusses health problems; old times in Aberdeen, Scotland, 3-2

Foster, V. O. to C. T. Baker, 1951, re: certifies that Billington is eligible for Associate Fellowship in the American Medical Association, 3-2

Fraser, Archie R. (8) to Ray Wallace Billington, 1921-1954, re: sends a copy of his book; birth of a baby; personal and family news; medical news, 3-2

Gambill, Ben S. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1941, re: thank you for the help with the Junior League of Nashville, 3-3

Goldthwait, Joel E. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1920, re: "grateful for the part you played in the work which our Division was expected to do overseas", 3-3

Guerny, Alex to Ray Wallace Billington, 1940, re: sends a statement concerning the University of the South, 3-3

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Howse, Henry E. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1937, re: thank you for the letter commending me for the manner in which the strike situation has been handled, 3-3

Jones, Ladd to Ray Wallace Billington, 1962, re: thank you for the orthopedic books, 3-4

Jones, Robert to Ray Wallace Billington, 1928, re: thank you for the pamphlets, 3-4

Kefauver, L. A. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1919, re: expresses his personal appreciation for your patriotic devotion during the war, 3-4

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Richardson, W. S. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1919, re: work at the Orthopedic Hospital at New Castle on Tyne; personal and family news, 3-8

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Rucks, William (2) to Polly Billington, 1943, re: life in the U. S. Army; Happy Anniversary to the Billingtons, 3-8

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Walber, G. F. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1930, re: requests information on medico-legal relationships, 3-10

Wallace, D. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1946, re: sends names of those returning to the Vanderbilt reunion of the class of 1906, 3-10

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